

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 28 and 29 have been allowed.

Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,883,227 to Kobayashi et al., JP 06-222397 (JP '397), JP 08-043861 to Hitsatake (JP '861), and United States Patent No. 5,694,188 to Sano et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,196,953 to Yeh et al., United States Patent No. 5,380,459 to Kanemoto et al., United States Patent No. 5,576,867 to Baur et al., and United States Patent No. 3,912,369 to Kashnow. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features of the liquid crystal display device defined in Claim 30. More specifically, none of the cited references disclose or suggest a liquid crystal display device that includes, inter alia, an optically biaxial retardation film that has "a first refractive index in a direction perpendicular to said liquid crystal layer and second and third refractive indices in a plane parallel to said liquid crystal layer such that said first refractive index is smaller than both said second refractive index and said third refractive index," as defined in independent Claim 30.

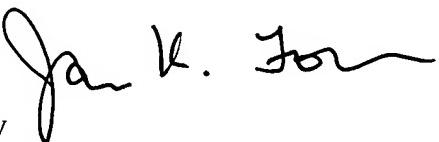
Claim 30, as amended, recites the specific optical orientation of the biaxial retardation film with respect to the orientation of the liquid crystal layer. With this specific orientation defined in Claim 30, the desired improvement of viewing angle and contrast ratio can be attained. Accordingly, as none of the cited references teach the use of a biaxial

retardation film, with the specific optical orientation recited in Claim 30, in combination with a vertically aligned liquid crystal panel, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 30 and associated dependent Claim 31.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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